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CLAIM AMENDMENTS

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1. Currently Amended)

A bending press comprising:

a bottom panel;

a top panel;

one of the panels being movable vertically relative to the other;

N bending-tool clamps, each clamp being mounted on one of said two panels to pivot about a common an axis common to all said bending tool clamps for clamping bending tools, said bending tool clamps forming a plurality of adjacent groups of adjacent clamps, the number of groups being less than N;

n actuator assemblies ($1 < n < N$), each actuator assembly being adapted to take up one of two different states;

n transmission means for transmitting the state taken by each one of said n actuator assemblies to one of said groups of adjacent bending tool clamps

~~means for causing said clamps to pivot about said axis;~~

~~wherein said means for causing the clamps to pivot comprise:~~

~~a plurality of actuator assemblies each suitable~~

~~for taking up two states;~~

~~- a plurality of transmission means for transmitting the state of each actuator assembly to a plurality of adjacent clamps of number smaller than N, in such a manner that each bending tool clamp is associated with a single actuator assembly; and~~

~~means for separately controlling the state of each actuator assembly, said two states consisting of between a first state, wherein the clamps associated with said actuator assembly is brought to which brings the clamps associated with the actuator assembly into a position for clamping a bending tool, and a second state wherein the clamps associated with said actuator assembly is brought to which brings the clamps associated with the actuator assembly into a position for removing said bending tools.~~

2. (Currently Amended)

~~A bending press according to claim 1, wherein: A bending press comprising:~~

~~a bottom panel;~~

~~a top panel, said bottom panel is stationary and said top panel is vertically movable;~~

~~the press further comprises N intermediate members pieces, each having two ends, each rigidly fixed to said top panel;~~

N bending-tool clamps, each of the clamps clamp is mounted on facing an intermediate member piece and pivoting about an axis common to all said clamps for clamping bending tools, said clamps forming a plurality of adjacent groups of adjacent clamps, the number of groups being less than N; and

~~means for causing said clamps to pivot about said axis;~~

~~the means for causing the clamps to pivot further comprise:~~

N clamp pivot mechanisms, each mechanism being associated with one clamp and one intermediate member piece, each mechanism presenting a control portion;

a plurality of link means for interconnecting the control portions of n mechanisms associated with n adjacent clamps, where n is an integer lying in the range $1 < n < N$; and

n actuator assemblies ($1 < n < N$), each actuator assembly being adapted to take up one of two different states;

n a plurality of transmission means for mechanically connecting each actuator assembly to the a-link means, and for transmitting the state taken by each one of said n actuator assemblies to one of said groups of adjacent bending tool clamps in such a manner that each bending tool clamp is associated with a single actuator assembly ; and

means for separately controlling said state of each actuator assembly, said two states consisting of a first state, wherein the clamps associated with said actuator assembly is brought to a position for clamping a bending tool, and a second state wherein the clamps associated with said actuator assembly is brought to a position for removing said bending tools.

3. (Currently Amended)

A bending press according to claim 2, wherein each clamp pivoting mechanism comprises two pivot assemblies mounted respectively at each end ~~the two ends~~ of the intermediate member ~~piece~~ associated with the clamp, each pivot assembly comprising a first lever with a first end forming said control portion.

4. (Currently Amended)

A bending press according to claim 3, wherein said lever being linked by link means comprises

~~2n second levers bars with two ends~~, each ~~second lever bar~~ being hinged at a first end to the first end of ~~a~~ first said lever, and

means for interconnecting the second end of the bars ~~second levers~~.

5. (Currently Amended)

A bending press according to claim 2, wherein each actuator means assembly comprises at least one

actuator whose cylinder is secured to the top panel and said transmission means is having a rod whose end is connected to a said link means.

6. (Currently Amended)

A bending press according to claim 5, wherein each actuator means comprises two actuators, each actuator being connected by said rod to one end of said link means.

7. (New)

A bending press comprising:

- a) two panels, a bottom panel and top panel, one of said two panels vertically movable relative to the other panel;
- b) a plurality of bending-tool clamp assemblies, each of said assemblies having a bending-tool clamp, each of said assemblies mounted on one of said two panels and having a common axis about which each of said clamps pivots between two positions, a first position for clamping a bending tool and a second position for releasing said bending tool;
- c) a plurality of actuator assemblies, each of said actuator assemblies associated with a group of two or more adjacent bending-tool clamp assemblies, each group of said bending-tool assemblies associate with one of said actuator assemblies, each of said actuator assemblies

having two states, a first state corresponding said first position and a second state corresponding to said second position;

d) a plurality of transmission means for transmitting each of said two states of said actuator assemblies to said bending tool clamp assemblies, one of each of said transmission means associated with one of each of said actuator assemblies and with one group of adjacent bending-tool clamp assemblies associated with said one of said actuator assemblies; and

e) a control means for separately controlling each of said actuator assemblies between said two states.

8 (New)

The press of claim 7, wherein,

said bottom panel is stationary and said top panel moves;

said bending tool clamp assemblies comprises:

an intermediate member rigidly fixed to said top panel;

a clamp pivotably mounted to said intermediate member;

a pivot clamp mechanism connected to said clamp for pivoting said clamp between said first position and said second position; and

a linking means for interconnecting each pivot clamp mechanism in said group of bending tool assemblies, each of said linking means connected to one of said transmission means.

9. (New)

The press of claim 8, wherein each pivot clamp mechanism comprises two pivot assemblies and each of said pivot assemblies is mounted on one side of intermediate member.

10. (New)

The press of claim 9, wherein,
said pivot assemblies comprises levers connected between the linking means and the clamp.

11. (New)

The press of claim 8, wherein
each of said actuator assemblies is at least one cylinder affixed to said top panel; and
said transmission means is a rod connected from said cylinder to said linking means.

12 (New)

The press of claim 11 wherein,
the linking means is a rod having two ends; and

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each actuator assemblies is two cylinders, each having a rod connected to opposite end of the same linking means.